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NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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USDA JUNE SURVEYS TO PROVIDE VITAL DATA ON 2010 FARM PRODUCTION

NASHVILLE, April 30, 2010 - USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is surveying hundreds of farmers across Tennessee to get a clearer indication of the production and supply of major commodities for 2010.

"With the 2010 growing season now in full swing, we can start to get a fuller picture of how things are shaping up for the agricultural sector. We'll be looking at what crops have been planted, what commodities are in storage and how much livestock is in inventory," said Debra Kenerson, Director of the NASS Tennessee Field Office.

Kenerson explained that NASS will gather this information through two major mid-year surveys: the June Area Survey and the June Agricultural Survey.

"For the area survey, we visit randomly selected tracts of land and interview the operators of any farm or ranch on that land. We collect information on crop acreage – including biotech crops, as well as grain stocks, livestock inventory, cash rents, land values, and value of sales," she said.

"For the agricultural survey, which we also call the 'crop/stocks survey,' we contact producers by mail, phone or personal visit. We ask them to provide information on their total acreage, acres planted to specific commodities – including biotech varieties, and quantities of grains and oilseeds stored on-farm."

"Especially in these uncertain economic times, farmers and the rest of the agricultural industry need timely, accurate data on the current state of U.S. agriculture," Kenerson said. "The information collected through our mid-year surveys can help producers, suppliers, traders, buyers, export customers and others to make sound and informed business decisions."

This information will be a critical component of several key national reports, including the annual *Acreage* report and the quarterly *Grain Stocks* report, both to be released on June 30. Survey data also contribute to NASS's monthly and annual *Crop Production* reports and various other crop and livestock-related publications, all of which are available online at www.nass.usda.gov. For a copy of the results of this survey or to obtain other agricultural statistics, visit the Tennessee Field Office website at www.nass.usda.gov/tn or call 1-800-626-0987.

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